

ce lui fut, sans aucun doute, une très grande joie de recevoir l'Extrême-Onction des mains du Très Révérend Père DESCHATELETS, supérieur général des Oblats de Marie Immaculée, pour qui il eut toujours une très vive affection. Ils étaient venus respectivement de Rome et du Mackenzie pour traiter d'affaires. Ils s'étaient rencontrés bien des fois. Le Bon Dieu voulut qu'ils puissent se rencontrer encore pour préparer l'affaire la plus importante de toute vie, celle de bien mourir!

Assisté jusqu'à ses derniers moments par le Rév. Père HARAMBURU, Vicaire des Missions du Mackenzie, représentant tous ses missionnaires, au matin de la Fête de la Médaille miraculeuse le 27 novembre 1958, Mgr Joseph Marie TROCELLIER, o.m.i., offrait son âme à Dieu et allait au ciel chanter les gloires de l'Immaculée. Elle dut, avec une joie spéciale, le présenter à notre vénéré fondateur Mgr de MAZENOD!

Missionnaire, Evêque, il restait l'Oblat de Marie Immaculée!

JEAN DENIS, O.M.

## BISHOP TROCELLIER DIES IN MONTREAL

The death of our Bishop has come to us as a sudden grief and sorrow.

For a priest, the death of his Bishop means the loss of his leader, ruler and superior. For all Catholics of the Mackenzie, the death of their Bishop means the loss of the Head chosen by the Vicar of Christ on earth to teach and sanctify them and to govern their spiritual life.

As a token of gratitude and affection for our late Bishop, we should like to record in the *Voice* a brief summary of his life.

Jean-Marie Trocellier was born at Tuzet in the township of Javols, diocese of Mende, France, on the 5th of November 1888. Following the secondary studies at the college of Marvegols, in Lozere, the young Trocellier entered the Noviate of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate at S. Peter of D'Aoste, Italy on September 8th 1908. At the end of the year of probation, he was called to military service for two years after which he began his theological studies. When the war broke out in 1914, student Trocellier joined the army to serve as a Sergeant Major until 1917 when he was taken prisoner by the Germans on the 17th of March and sent to Hanover for internment. Having resumed his studies in 1918 at the Oblate Scholasticate of San Giorgio, Italy, Father Trocellier became priest on the 25th of May 1920. A year later, he was sent North, first to Fort Good-Hope and thence in 1922 to Fort Liard- where he ministered among the Slaves for three years.

When Bishop Breynat decided to establish a new Mission at Aklavik in 1925, he chose Father Trocellier as the first Director and Pastor. Five years of difficult labour and ungrateful task marked the pioneer years of the Immaculate Conception Mission. Under his wise direction, a hospital was built and served at the same time as a boarding school for Eskimos children.

In 1930, His Bishop sent him to the Coast for missionarying among the Eskimos of Letty Harbour and two years later despatched the roving priest to replace the newly elected Bishop Fallaize at Coppermine. By that time, Father Trocellier had become an experienced missionary and had proved to be a skilful administrator. Thus, His Bishop called him back at Aklavik in 1934 to improve and promote the education of children at the Residential School, and lead the growing Mission, and admin-

ister the Hospital. In addition to his spiritual, often discharged other functions, such as fireman, engineer and fisherman in order to relieve the busy Brothers and reduce the cost of operation of the institutions. « In those days we were 'jack of all trades' », he was heard say to young priests in later years.

In 1940 Father Trocellier was appointed Coadjutor of the ailing Bishop Breyant and consecrated Bishop on the 8th of September in the memorable Church of St. Albert by His Excellency Mgr. Breynat. Three years later, he assumed the leadership and government of the Vicariate of the Mackenzie, succeeding to the resigning Vicar Apostolic.

Incidentally we may note that Bishop Trocellier was one of the first appointees of the late Pius XII. Both have lead and governed their respective folds for a period of 18 years and both have been called almost at the same time to render account of their stewardship and to receive, as we hope, the reward of their good deeds.

It is not for us to relate the accomplishments of our late Bishop, not even to outline the many qualities he displayed during the 37 years of his missionary life.

Awaiting the relations of history, we should like at this time to quote the words of His Excellency Bishop Coudert spoken at the funeral of his confrere in Edmonton. « His military bearing and his plain speech, blunt at times, might at first have been offensive to the unaware interlocutor, yet under such somewhat exterior appearances he concealed a delicate sensibility that caused tears in his eyes sometimes and particularly in his sermons... ». Children especially had his tender care and affection.

In recent years Bishop Trocellier was aware

of his failing health. Several times he had been confined to bed for serious medical care. And this last summer he realized that the strength of his manhood seemed to vanish. But it was only in November that he lied down exhausted by sickness.

Following the meeting of the Conference of the Bishops of Canada and that of the Oblate Commission in Ottawa, His Excellency proceeded to Montreal for other important affairs. On the 17th after the celebration of the Sacrifice of the Mass, His Lordship felt so ill that it was thought necessary to take him to the Maisonneuve Hospital immediately. A medical examination revealed renal and diabetic disorders that required chirurgical operation. Meanwhile the condition of the venerable patient improved slightly but on Saturday 22nd he suffered a cerebral hemorrhage. The Very Rev. Father L. Deschatelets O.M.I., Superior General, was called and administered him the sacrament of Extreme Unction in the late after-noon in the presence of Rev. Fr. R. Haramburu, Provincial of the Oblates of Mackenzie and Rev. Fr. S. Ducharme, Provincial of the Oblates of Quebec. Present also were Rev. Fr. A. Gathy, the Very Rev. Mother General of the Grey Nuns and Mother L. Elie.

On Sunday, the Bishop received Holy Communion and joined in the prayers of thanksgiving. However, his left side had become paralyzed and no improvement for two days indicated the possibility of the chirurgical operation. A second cerebral hemorrhage occurred in late evening Thursday 25th that proved to be fatal. And death overtook him on Thursday morning at 4.30. The Most Rev. J. M. Trocellier, our Bishop, had ended his earthly life and entered into a new one... of eternal reward. He was 70 years old, had been in our Missions for 37 years, and our Bishop for 18 years.

His remains were carried to the Oblate Church of St. Peter the Apostle where a Mass of Requiem was sung on Friday morning by Most Rev. M. Lajeunesse O.M.I. in the presence of three Bishops, a large number of priests, and 40 Grey Nuns and other persons.

The Bishop's body was thence transported by train to Edmonton and placed in the Church of St. Joachim where a second Mass of Requiem was sung on Tuesday Dec. 2nd by Most Rev. H. Routhier, Vicar Apost. of Grouard. A funeral oration was delivered by Most Rev. J. Coudert, Vicar Apostolic of the Yukon. The following day the remains of the late Bishop were flown by air to Fort Smith and on Thursday morning a third Requiem Mass was sung in his former Church and attended by a large crowd of faithful. His mortal remains now lay in the modest cemetery of the Mission awaiting the glorious day of the Resurrection.

May those who read this feeble eulogy of our late Bishop remember him in their prayers.

We who have benefitted from his prayers and labours can show no better token of our affection and gratitude towards him than by living up to the teachings he has given us and the rules He has enjoined us to observe from time to time.

While we are saddened by his death, we shall ever keep his memory. And soon we shall rejoice over the appointment of a new Bishop who will continue to direct and govern our spiritual lives towards the everlasting happiness.

S. L.